

THOUGHTFULNESS IS NOT A LITTLE THING!



Dorothea L. Mann

Blindness is at best one of life's most difficult handicaps to overcome. For many, it is a handicap that cannot be overcome. Among these more unfortunate are a group of senior citizens that are incapable of even minimum participation in the Society's rehabilitation programs. We know of over one hundred men and women who having outlived friends and family live in seclusion and seldom have visitors. They would have no contact with the living world

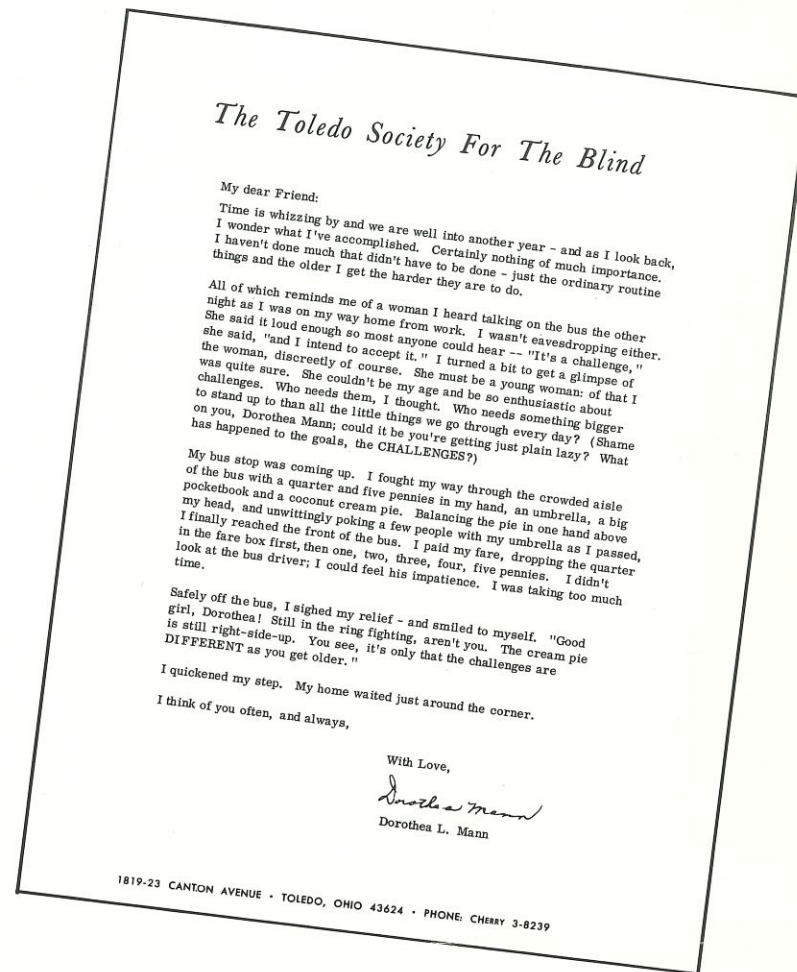
if it were not for the sunlight radiated by Society volunteer, Mrs. Dorothea Lumm Mann of AP Parts Corporation.

For the past year Mrs. Mann has given freely of her time and very special writing talent to correspond with this group of blind shut-ins. One of her newly won friends has asked that we share with you the contents of one of her recent letters.

Retired Telephonemen

Pitch in to Service

Talking Book Machines



CHRISTMAS CARDS

Now would be a good time to mark your calendar as a reminder the Toledo Society for the Blind will have Christmas Cards for sale again this year. Sample cards will be available about July 15th at the Society. There will be three designs to choose from: one for personal use, a more conservative design for business use, and one with a spiritual motif. Samples of the cards will also be mailed with our October Newsletter.

If you order the Society cards, they are sent to you, no charge, and you make a contribution to the Society for whatever amount you wish. Your contribution is tax deductible.

You'll find these cards are exceptionally well received by your friends and associates as they serve a more meaningful holiday purpose. The money received by the Society is used to further special projects which would be impossible without your continuing support.

One of the many familiar faces at the Society is Mr. Clyde Croyle, Retired Ohio Bell Telephone Employee and member of their Retirees Club, The Telephone Pioneers. In Toledo, and nationally members of The Telephone Pioneers volunteer their valuable experience to the blind by keeping the Talking Book Machines in repair. The Toledo Society For The Blind presently has 700 of these specially designed record players placed with area blind citizens.

Talking books are available to all blind citizens. No charge is ever made.

NEWS LETTER PHOTOS BY ROBERT PACKO

The Toledo Society For The Blind NEWS

A NEWS LETTER TO HELP YOU BECOME BETTER INFORMED ABOUT THIS RED FEATHER AGENCY

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1819 Canton Ave.

Telephone 243-8239

LAZY EYE EXAMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR ALL PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN

**THIS MAJOR CAUSE OF ADULT
BLINDNESS CAN BE CORRECTED -
ONLY IF DISCOVERED AT AN
EARLY AGE . . .**

In cooperation with the Ohio Society for the Prevention of Blindness, Delta Gamma Sorority, and The Toledo Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Society. The Toledo Society for the Blind has launched "OPERATION LAZY EYE." The purpose of the program, as described by Dr. Robert L. Willard, Toledo Ophthalmologist and Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee of the Ohio Society for the Prevention of Blindness is to establish a permanent Toledo-Lucas County eye screening program for our pre-school children.

LAZY EYE DEFINED

Lazy Eye (amblyopia ex anopsia) is a condition in which an eye appears perfectly healthy yet actually has low or weak vision. It may, according to the findings of the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, affect as many

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TEST CHART--SNELLEN RATING
ILLITERATE-DIRECT READING



Four year old Polly Haarbauer concentrates on matching the E she is holding with proper character on the Snellen E Chart.



(Left to right) Mrs. John Meszaros, Toledo Society For The Blind volunteer and Mrs. A. J. Cross, Delta Gamma Sorority, report on the progress of "Operation Lazy Eye" to Dr. Robert Willard, Toledo ophthalmologist.

WHEN YOU MEET ME

don't be ill at ease.
It will help us both
if you remember
these simple points
of courtesy:



- * I'm an ordinary person, just blind. Don't shout or address me as if I were a child. Don't ask my wife, "Does he take cream in his coffee?" Ask me.
- * I can walk more easily with you than with dog or cane. Don't grab my arm; let me take yours. I'll keep a half-step behind, to anticipate curbs and steps. Going down stairs I prefer to hold the railing.
- * I want to know who's in the room with me. Speak when you enter, introduce me to the others. Include children, and tell me if there's a cat or dog. Guide my hand to a chair, and show me the ashtray.
- * The door of a room or car left ajar is a hazard for me. So are toys on the floor. Watch out for projecting lampshades; I hate to break things. At dinner I may ask help to cut meat. Tell me where the food is on my plate; "Meat at nine o'clock; peas at two o'clock; potatoes at four."
- * Don't avoid words like "see." I use them too. I'm always glad to see you.
- * I don't want pity. But don't talk about the "wonderful compensations" of blindness. Whatever I've learned has been by hard work.
- * If I'm your houseguest, show me the bathroom, closet, dresser, window, the outlet for my electric razor. The light switch, too; I like to know whether the lights are on.
- * I'll discuss blindness with you if you're curious, but it's an old story to me. I have as many other interests as you do.
- * Don't think of me as a blind man. I'm a man, who happens to be blind.

HELP THE BLIND TO HELP THEMSELVES

In ten years the number of blind persons gainfully employed has tripled. Many more will become independent as they receive the needed training and guidance.

WE'VE MADE PROGRESS
help us keep it going

OPERATION LAZY EYE (Continued from Page 1)

as one out of every twenty American youngsters. If lazy eye is not detected and treated by the time a child is six, permanent loss of vision can follow.

IMPORTANCE OF EARLY DISCOVERY

Because lazy eye is difficult to detect, eye examination of pre-school children by qualified adults is vital. A child's eyes grow as he grows, and vision develops from birth through the age of 6 or 7. This is the critical time for visual care and time when eye defects can still be corrected. By the time a child is 3 or 4 years old, his vision should have been examined. Defects such as crossed eyes can result in a lazy eye and may lead to permanent loss of sight in the affected eye if not corrected. Contrary to many misinformed people, children do not outgrow crossed eyes.

FREE PRE-SCREENING FOR GROUPS AND INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN

To emphasize the importance of "Operation Lazy Eye" and to insure every child in the community the opportunity to participate in the program, volunteers from both the Delta Gamma Sorority and The Toledo Society for the Blind have established eye-screening programs.

At the Society, individual screening examinations are conducted by the volunteer staff. This screening time is open to the public and no charge is made for the examinations. At the same time, members of Delta Gamma Sorority are conducting similar free examinations at area Nursery Schools.

The examination of an individual child requires an average of only five minutes, but these could be the most important five minutes in the child's life. When during the course of the examinations eye problems are suspected, the parent is notified and advised to have the child's eyes checked by an ophthalmologist.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITY STRESSED

Dr. Willard emphasizes the parents' role in insuring good vision for their child. He said it could not be stressed enough because a child does not know how well he should see. A youngster may have blurred vision, or see double, or use only one eye and still not complain about his eyesight. Children must rely on adults for the proper development of good eye sight. The Lazy Eye Program affords the parents an opportunity to have vision defects in their child detected and referred to the proper professional channels for correction and treatment.



Dr. Willard explains child's eye chart to Society For The Blind workers (L. to R.) Mrs. Secor Frazier, Mrs. Paul Neeper, Miss Sylvia Loper, Mrs. John Meszaros, and Mrs. Alex Radwanski.



Mrs. Charles Werner, Jr. checks the light reflection in the eyes of Aaron Gumenick, while Mrs. Kenneth Fankhauser (left) and Mrs. Clarence Neuhaus ready the eye chart. The women are members of Delta Gamma Sorority.

HISTORY OF HOW LAZY EYE PROGRAM CAME TO TOLEDO

While lazy eye, or amblyopia as it is also commonly called, has long been a major concern of the medical profession, its damaging effects on our nation were not fully realized until World War II. Through the results of physical examinations given by the armed forces, it was realized just how many adults had lost their vision in one eye as a result of this childhood eye problem.

Following the war, the National Society For The Prevention of Blindness began a campaign that evolved into the pre-school vision screening program. Today with the support of the Delta Gamma National Sorority, the screening program has spread into most major American cities.

In the fall of 1964, with the help of Ohio Society for the Prevention of Blindness members, Dr. Willard, Mrs. Robert Wallace, and Mrs. Frank Keith, the local Delta Gamma Chapter became interested in the program and by the spring of 1965 had organized its first volunteer committee under the chairmanship of Mrs. C. W. Neuhaus.

That same year, after extensive training in testing techniques and use of examination equipment, the committee conducted its first pilot program. Significantly, of the first 84 children tested in nursery schools, four were found in need of professional eye care. This was nearly the same ratio, one out of twenty children, found by the NSPB.

These results demonstrated the need for enlargement of the program in the Toledo Area, so the Delta Gammas have volunteered their services to all area nursery schools. Their invitation is being graciously accepted and by the end of the school year the sorority predicts they will have completed over 500 individual eye examinations of nursery school children.

OPERATION HEAD START

The testing of children by the Toledo Society has also been expanded to impressive numbers. Working in teams of two and three, Society volunteers have successfully tested over 1,000 children of Toledo's "Operation Head Start." The Head Start eye examinations have taken TSFB teams to many of the "Head Start" centers as well as brought hundreds of children to the Society's testing facilities located in the Society's building on Canton Avenue.

Mrs. John Meszaros, chairman of the Society's testing program reports sixty children have been found that required additional eye examinations.

FINANCING

Mr. John Goerlich, Society President, indicated that part of the cost of the Head Start screening is being paid by the Federal Government, but the cost of all other screenings have been borne by the Delta Gamma Sorority and The Toledo Society For The Blind. He said, "Operation Lazy Eye was not contemplated at the time the Society's budget request was submitted to the United Appeal Board and therefore the Society faces a problem. But," he added quickly, "I am confident help will come as the importance of the program is recognized by the community. A good many considerate and generous citizens have helped make the Society what it is today. All of us connected with the organization are most grateful for their help and contributions."

Society For The Blind Volunteer Mrs. Edward Hantula checks little Shawn Hess from the Toledo Day Nursery for Lazy Eye symptoms.



These Head Start children were happily occupied at the Society For The Blind headquarters while they wait for their individual eye examinations. We always serve the youngsters a glass of milk and a cookie.



For Further Information Regarding Operation LAZY EYE or for an individual eye screening appointment, Call Toledo Society For The Blind, 243-8239.